

Additional Information (3) 12/22/09

Definition of peer learning for purposes of this project

Because library staff have a general knowledge of the definition of peer learning rather than a strictly academic definition, the State Library thinks of peer learning as similar to collaborative learning or cooperative learning. Learning from peers is key ingredient to peer learning and the ability to help your peers learn in return. “Just in time” learning is also important. Peers can get answers and share questions and experiences quickly rather than waiting several months to a year to get formal training on an issue.

By providing a structure that enables people to share, they can learn from each other. There are both formal and informal peer to peer learning experiences. For example: we would have a facilitated session with the 17 grant project libraries and they are asked questions and invited to share their successes and their questions (formal). Then, they go back to their project and they think of something else that they want to get input on so they contact the 16 other libraries (or maybe a sub group) and ask their questions (informal).

Virtual meeting platform

The State Library’s subscription to WIMBA runs through June 30, 2010. By June 30, a decision must be made. It is not a foregone conclusion that WIMBA will be used in the future. Even if WIMBA is not selected, the software chosen will have the same core features as WIMBA. Some State Library staff have experience with WIMBA

The State Library has a trial subscription to Elluminate and this product could also be used for this project. The subscription lasts through December 2010. State Library staff does not yet have experience with this product.

Consultants will not be responsible for the selection of the virtual meeting platform. State Library staff and the WebJunction Washington Advisory Team are evaluating products and will make that selection.

Further elaboration based on inquiries

Initially, the Consultant will work with the staff of Library Development at the State Library to help them understand and become proficient in the strategies and processes of online peer learning in general. Later, it is hoped that working with the seventeen libraries in the Renew Washington grant cycle will provide State Library staff “real life” experience in applying what the State Library staff have learned. These libraries will share information about their grants through a facilitated peer learning experience. The State library staff will learn the peer learning strategies and apply them in a facilitated environment with the seventeen libraries. The Consultant will work with the State Library staff as they provide online peer learning among Renew Washington grant recipients and provide feedback and assistance during this process. This is because the funds for this project have been granted as a part of the Renew Washington grant project.

The consultant will assist in developing or providing some forms of measuring the success of the peer learning experience among libraries.

The Consultant will create or provide curriculum on peer learning in the online environment so the State Library and the state's libraries can continue this form of peer learning with other libraries, increasing their outreach across the state.

While online learning is to be emphasized in this project, knowing the skills of face-to-face facilitation are important in any situation and it is assumed that some of those skills may need to be taught to State Library staff in order for them to provide effective online peer learning experiences for other libraries. Emphasis should be placed on working with librarians to develop peer learning strategies using various collaborative tools with online meeting rooms.

Please see **1.4 FUNDING** on p. 3 of the RFQQ for specific tasks/deliverables.